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is placed. The plan seems to me applicable to specula of two or three times the diameter of mine with equal success. I was scarcely prepared to believe beforehand that the bending would follow so regular a law, as that it should be completely eliminated by a regularly devised system of counteracting support. I believe the application of the apparatus does not add more than 40 lbs. to that end of the tube which contains the speculum.

"Did I mention to you that I had (some time ago now) made an addition and improvement to the polishing machine by communicating a regular slow motion to the polisher? It has given me some trouble and looks complex, but it is efficient, and tends, I think, to greater uniformity of curve. But when I have leisure, I must describe it more fully."

Extract of a Letter from M. Johnson, Esq., Director of the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford.

"You will be glad to hear that the Radcliffe Trustees have sanctioned the appointment of a second assistant at this observatory. Besides this important addition, the Trustees allow me a journeyman to look after the meteorological department, *i.e.* to prepare the photographic paper, &c., and I am also granted a certain sum for additional computations; altogether, this observatory is now as well set up as it need be.

"My first course will be to direct our attention to completing the catalogue of the northern stars. All our annual catalogues, except 1842, are already brought up to our proposed epoch, 1845; and in a few months all the recognisable stars of Groombridge's catalogue will have been observed. We shall then have to arrange the work, to get out the precessions, and to amend the places of some stars near the pole (not the very close stars), which have been necessarily brought up with slightly inaccurate precessions. In thinking over the form of the catalogue, my present idea is to give every *datum* necessary for the future revision of our places; for though I hope to escape with very few mistakes, I cannot expect to avoid them altogether. This will swell the publication considerably, and the recomputation of all the constants to fit the new places is rather a formidable work. I feel, however, very well disposed to face this; and I trust by a suitable index to supply future observers with the means of verifying any of our places with but little trouble."

Occultation of a Fixed Star by Jupiter.

By the Rev. W. R. Dawes.

1851, May 8, 9^h G.M.T. Having turned my $8\frac{1}{2}$-foot refractor upon *Jupiter*, I instantly perceived a small star near his western edge, and observed its occultation with power 188. The disap-

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pearance occurred at $9^h\ 20^m\ 48^s$ ± G.M.T.; the angle on the limb, measured from the planet's northern pole round by the eastern or following side, being about 250°. *Jupiter* was obscured by clouds at the time of the reappearance of the star, which is Bessel (Weisse) xii, 966. Mean place for 1825, R.A. $12^h\ 54^m\ 49^s{\cdot}21$, $\delta - 4^\circ\ 12'\ 33''{\cdot}2$. It is of the 8th magnitude, according to Bessel.

The air was unfavourable, and the time noted is therefore uncertain to a few seconds.

Micrometrical Measures of γ Virginis. By Isaac Fletcher, F.R.A.S.

"The binary star *γ Virginis*, being an object of extraordinary interest, I beg leave to submit the following measures of its angle of position and distance to the Royal Astronomical Society.

"The measures were taken with extreme care with the six-foot equatoreal and clock motion, and parallel wire-micrometer.

Epoch.	Position.	Weight.	Distance.	Weight.
	° ′		″	
1851·386	176 16	3	3·011	3
·397	175 55	2	3·005	4
·400	175 29	4	3·035	4
·402	176 2	3	3·107	2
·408	176 20	4	3·088	4
·408	175 51	4	3·056	4
Mean 1851·401	175 58	20	3·047	21

"In taking the mean, the several proportional weights are duly allowed for. Each set consists of eight measures of position, and eight double measures of distance."

On the evening of March 12, 1851, as the sun was setting in the midst of a thick haze, Mr. Weld observed a spot on the sun's disc with the naked eye. On pointing it out to one or two other persons, they saw it with facility. Next day he observed the sun with the equatoreal, and found a single large spot nearly round but somewhat angular. Its greatest measured diameter parallel to the equator was $4^s{\cdot}05$, that of the nucleus $1^s{\cdot}60$. Its diameter measured along the meridian circle was $52''{\cdot}53$.

Astronomische Nachrichten.

The Editor of the *Monthly Notices* has received from Mr. J. Schumacher an account of the stock in hand of the lamented Professor's publications, including a complete list of the back Volumes and Numbers of the *Nachrichten.* In the June *Notice*

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